Losses to Indian Telephone Industry

614. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Telephone Industry is incurring continuous losses, if so, from which year and reason for losses;

(b) whether it is a fact that DOT has stopped placing orders or not placing sufficient orders to the extent of its capacity;

(c) why DOT is not supporting ITI when it is a PSU and once enjoying a status of monopoly with DOT; and

(d) what steps Government is taking to make ITI profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The ITI, LTD, Bangalore is incurring losses from the year 1994-95 onwards. However, the company has earned a marginal profit during 1997-98. The main reasons for the losses are as follows:

(i) Competition from private vendors resulting in considerable reduction in prices of telecom equipment products.

(ii) Heavy interest burden owing to large commercial borrowings by the company;

(iii) High manpower costs and other overheads.

(b) to (d) Due. to opening up of telecom sector, ITI Ltd. no more enjoys the monopoly status and has to compete with private vendors for securing orders. However, to help the company, DOT has reserved 20 to 30% of its orders outside the tender for placement on ITI Ltd. DOT is also giving advances upto 75% of the value of purchase Orders (25% on Advance Purchase Orders and 50% on firm Purchase Orders) placed on the company outside the tender.

Due to the above measures as also certain other steps taken by DOT like waiver of liquidated damages, Government Guarantee for the Bonds floated by the company during the past two years, compensation for the losses suffered in the Srinagar Unit of the company, compensation for the VRS Scheme, etc., the performance of the company is showing market improvement from the year 1996-97 onwards. As against a loss of about Rs. 284 crores recorded during 1995-96, the company reduced its losses to Rs. 51 crores in 1996-97. During the year 1997-98, the company has earned a marginal profit of Rs. 5 crores according to the unaudited financial results announced recently.

त्रिपुरा में डाक और तार सेवाओं का नवीकरण

615. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जुदेव :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि **:**

(क) क्या डाक और तार विभाग द्वारा त्रिपुरा में डाक और तार सेवाओं के नवीकरण और आधुनिकीकरण के लिए चालू योजना अवधि के दौरान कोई योजना शुरू की गई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) 31 जनवरी, 1997 तक की स्थिति के अनुसार इस संबंध में क्या प्रगति हुई है;

(घ) आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान इस प्रयोजन के लिए त्रिपुरा जोन को कुल कितनी राशि दी गई तथा इस पर 31 जनवरी,1997 तक कितनी राशि व्यय की गई ; और

(ङ) राज्य की डाक और तार सेवाओं में सुधार लाने के लिए बनाई जाने वाली प्रस्तावित योजनाओं का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कबीद्र पुरकायस्थ) : (क) जी हां।

(ख) चालू वर्ष के लिए निम्नलिखित योजनाओं को अभिचिन्हित किया गया है **:-**

(i) छह डाकघरों में कम्प्यूटर आधारित बहुउद्देश्यीय काउंटर मशीनों की स्थापना।

(ii) तीन डाकघरों में बचत बैंक कार्य के लिए लोकल एरिया नेटवर्क की स्थापना।

(iii) (अगरतला वेरी स्माल अपसचर टर्मिनल केन्द्र से जुड़े तीन विस्तारित उपग्रह मनीआर्डर केन्द्रों की स्थापना ।

(iv) तीन डाकघर भवनों का निर्माण ।

(v) धर्मानगर हैड पोस्ट आफिस भवन का विस्तार ।

(vi) अगरतला और धर्मानगर तथा अगरतला और साबरूम के बीच विभागीय मेल मोटर सेवा चलाना ।

(vii) तारघरों तथा कुछ महत्वपूर्ण संयुक्त डाक-तारघरों में माइक्रो प्रोसेसर आधारित स्विचों, जो इलेक्ट्रानिक की-बोर्ड कंसन्ट्रेटर (ई के बी सी) , इलेक्ट्रानिक की-बोर्ड (ई के बी) के रूप में जाने जाते हैं, का प्रावधान ।

(ग) 31 जनवरी, 1997 तक की स्थिति के अनुसार निम्नलिखित प्रगति हुई है:-

(i) आठ डाकघरों का आधुनिकीकरण किया गया ।

(ii) अगरतला हैड पोस्ट आफिस और अगरतला बाजार उपडाकघर के भवनों का निर्माण कार्य पूरा हो गया ।

(iii) तीन बहुउद्देश्यीय काउंटर मशीनों की स्थापना की गई ।

(iv) अगरतला हैड पोस्ट आफिस में बचत बैंक नियंत्रण संगठन का कम्प्यूटरीकरण किया गया ।

(v) इलेक्ट्रानिक की-बोर्ड कंसन्ट्रेटर तथा इलेक्ट्रानिक की-बोर्ड की स्थापना का कार्य आरंभ हो चुका है ।

(घ) आटवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना (1992-97) के दौरान त्रिपुरा के डाकघरों के संबंध में 2.3 करोड़ रु आबंटित किए गए थे । जिसकी तुलना में 31 जनवारी, 1997 तक 1.5 करोड़ रु0 व्यय हुए । तारघरों के लिए जोन-वार कोई अलग फंड निर्धारित नहीं किया जाता ।

(ड.) जैसाकि उपर्युक्त (ख) में उल्लेख किया गया है ।

Basic and Cellular Services

616. SHRI SOL1PETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the licence fee quoted for basic and cellular services are unrealistic and on the higher side; and

(b if so, the steps proposed to reduce it to allow the projects to take off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The bidders for both Basic and Cellular services themselves quoted the licence fee for various Telecom Circles in a competitive bidding- process, after assessing the demand for these services.

(b The operator's Associations have represented about the poor health of both Cellular and Basic service industry and have requested for certain financial reliefs. Bureau of Industrial Cost & Prices (BICP) has been requested to carry out a technoenonomic study of Cellular service Industry. Their report is awaited.

Target for Village Public Telephones

617. SHRI K.M. SAIFUIXAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the target set up for village public telephones and achievements made in this regard so far; and

(b) the National Telecom Policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) The target as per National telecom Policy 1994 was to cover all the 6.04 lakh villages of the country with a Public Telephone by 1997.

Upto 31.3.98, total 310687 villages could be provided with public telephone.

As per the latest tentative programme, we are planning to cover all the villages with a VPT by the end of 9th Five Year Plan. However in this roll out plan we expect contribution by the Private Basic operators also.